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UNEMPLOYED CITY WORKERS IN KWANGTUNG PROVINCE REPATRIATED TO RURAL DISTRICTS

The serious unemployment problem in urban centers of Kwangtung Province has forced the Labor Bureau of the Kwangtung Provincial People's Government, the Preparatory Committee of the Kwangtung General Labor Union, and the Provincial Unemployment Committee to speed up the repatriation of unemployed city workers to the rural districts during September and October, according to a report published in the Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao of 22 September 1952.

Although the repatriation of unemployed city workers has been taking place in Kwangtung since June 1952, a joint directive issued by the three agencies to their local units stipulated that repatriation should be their major task for the present.

A Hong Kong dispatch published in the New York Hua-chiao Jih-pao on 10 September 1952 reported that more than 30 offices had been set up in Canton to register the unemployed for repatriation to the rural districts.

The text of the Nan-fang Jih-pao's report follows:

During the past 2 years, the Kwangtung Provincial Government has been successful in providing jobs and relief for the unemployed. Incomplete data from 12 cities, including Kai-k'ou and Shan-t'ou, show that 53,724, or 85 percent of the unemployed, were given jobs, relief, or trained for new vocations.

In compliance with the resolution on "provisional methods for the relief of the unemployed" adopted by the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government, the Kwangtung Provincial People's Government, in August 1950, organized an unemployment committee. At the same time, the provincial government set up regular offices in all cities with a population of over 50,000 to manage the placement of the unemployed, the training and transfer of unemployed workers to new occupational fields, and the provision of relief.

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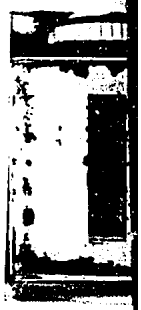

Accordingly, unemployment relief offices were set up in Shan-t'ou, Hai-k'ou, Chan-chiang, Chiang-men, Fu-shan, Shao-kuan, San-fou, Chao-ch'ing, Shih-ku, Ch'ao-an, Ch'ao-yang, and Chieh-yang. In addition, 20 employment offices were set up throughout the province. Agencies on all levels mobilized and repatriated unemployed workers for farm work as well as worked to find jobs for the unemployed, retrain unemployed workers for new vocations, and furnish emergency and work relief.

Of the 53,724 unemployed who were given some form of relief, 19,200 received relief in exchange for work, 10,950 received relief funds, 9,544 were given jobs, 2,849 were given work relief, 1,145 were retrained and transferred to new occupations, 67 were unaccounted for, and the remainder /10,834/ were repatriated to the rural districts. During 1951 and the first half of 1952, food relief amounting to 3,993,429 catties and relief funds totaling 2,760 million yuan were distributed to the unemployed.

Work relief programs not only provided subsistence for the unemployed, but also contributed greatly to all types of construction projects, such as, road building, clearing of sewers, and the building of playing fields. All types of short-term political as well as technical training classes were organized to retrain the unemployed for new vocations. According to data available, more than 548 were retrained in such cities as San-fou, Ch ao-an, Chan-chiang, etc., during the first half of 1952. More than 90 unemployed workers were retrained in Fu-shan and hired by the municipal public security bureau for police work.

Great efforts were made to mobilize and repatriate for agricultural production a large number of unemployed workers who had little education and no special vocational training. From late June to mid-August 1952, 789 families /2,241 persons/ were repatriated from Shao-kuan to their native villages to take part in agricultural production. During the past few days, nearly 2,000 unemployed workers were repatriated from Cniang-men to the rural districts. Those repatriated to the rural districts assisted with the land reform movement as well as with production.

The unemployed who received jobs, were transferred to new occupations, or received relief, are all grateful to the people's government for its considerate treatment. Those who have been placed in production jobs have shown the right attitude toward their work which has increased public confidence in the various employment offices and removed the unnecessary anxiety of some state and private enterprises about hiring the unemployed.

To speed up the solving of the unemployment relief problem, the Labor Bureau of the Kwangtung Provincial People's Government, the Preparatory Committee of the Kwangtung General Labor Union, and the Kwangtung Provincial Unemployment Relief Committee jointly issued an announcement on 1 September, directing all their local units to mobilize and repatriate unemployed city workers to the rural districts during September and October to take part in agricultural production, and to make this their major task.

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